GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
ABSTRACT

Public Servants – Allegation of corruption against Sri Paltasingi Appala Raju, Forest Beat Officer, O/o Forest Range Officer, Araku Valley, Visakhapatnam District – Trapped on 10-01-2014 – Sanction of Prosecution under the Prevention of Corruption Act – Orders – Issued.

ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS, SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY (SEC.IV) DEPARTMENT

G.O.MS.No. 101 **Dated: 22-12-2017**

O R D E R:

Whereas, Sri Paltasingi Appala Raju, S/o Late Lakshmanna, 57 years, Forest Beat Officer, O/o Forest Range Officer, Araku Valley, Visakhapatnam District from 13.12.2008 to 10.01.2014 and by virtue of the post held by him, he falls under the category of public servant as defined under section 2(c) of the Prevention of Corruption Act,1988 (Central Act 49 of 1988);

2) And whereas, Sri Tiruveedhula Venkata Sivaram, S/o Krishnaveni, 42 years, is resident of Teenasamanthavalasa(V), Saluru(M), Vizianagaram District, doing timber business. He purchased eucalyptus trees from Smt. Aaram Rukmini of Madagada Village and Sri Buridi Ratnadas of Pedagangudi Village. He used to transport the same to a cement factory situated at Kodada of Nalgonda District. About 10 days prior to 10.01.2014, he got cut the said eucalyptus trees and transported some of the logs in two lorries. On 07.01.2014, Sri V.Venkateswara Naidu, Forest Section Officer and Sri P.Appala Raju, Forest Beat Officer issued No Objection Certificates for transporting the same. Still he had to transport two more lorries of eucalyptus trees. On 08.01.2014, Sri V.Venkateswara Naidu, FSO and Sri P.Appala Raju, FBO, went to him and demanded to pay Rs.20,000/- for issuing No Objection Certificates to allow him to transport the remaining eucalyptus logs in two lorries and threatened that they would book a false case against him. Sri Siva Ram had shown interim orders of the Hon'ble High Court of AP vide W.P.No.24532 of 2013 wherein he was given permission to cut the eucalyptus trees and transport them but Sri V. Venkateswara Naidu and Sri P. Appala Raju, disobeying the directions of the Hon'ble court insisted to pay bribe of Rs.20,000/-. On his repeated requests, Sri V. Venkateswara Naidu and Sri P.Appala Raju, have reduced the bribe amount to Rs.15,000/- and instructed him to pay the said amount on 10.01.2014 at their office;

3) And whereas, Sri Tiruveedhula Venkata Sivaram was not willing to pay the bribe amount to Sri V. Venkateswara Naidu, FSO and Sri P.Appala Raju, FBO, he submitted a written report to the DSP, A.C.B., Visakhapatnam, to take necessary action against them. After following due procedure, the DSP, ACB, Visakhapatnam, registered the said report as a case in Cr.No.02/RCT – VSP/2014 under section 7 of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 of ACB, Visakhapatnam Range, Visakhapatnam at 10:30 hrs on 10.01.2014 took up investigation and made arrangements for laying trap against Sri Vanthala Venkateswara Naidu and Sri P. Appala Raju;

4) And whereas, during the trap proceedings on 10.01.2014, Sri Paltasingi Appala Raju was trapped in his office when he further demanded and accepted bribe of Rs.5,000/- from Sri T.Venkata Sivaram as illegal gratification for doing official favour to issue No Objection Certificate for transport of eucalyptus logs purchased by him. During the

Post trap Proceedings, both the hand fingers of Sri P.Appala Raju turned into pink colour when they were subjected to chemical test. In pursuance of the information given by Sri P.Appala Raju, the tainted currency of Rs.5,000/- was recovered from his left side shirt pocket. The inner linings of left side shirt pocket of Sri P.Appala Raju, which came into contact with the tainted currency were subjected to sodium carbonate test, also proved positive. The DSP seized the tainted currency, the shirt of Sri P.Appala Raju, resultant solutions and relevant records.

5) And whereas, the said acts of Sri Paltasingi Appala Raju, S/o Late Lakshmanna, 57 years, Forest Beat Officer, O/o Forest Range Officer, Araku valley, Visakhapatnam District, constitute offences punishable under sections 7 and 13(2) read with 13(1)(d) of the Prevention of Corruption Act,1988 (Central Act 49 of 1988) read with 34 Indian Penal Code.

6) And whereas, the Government of Andhra Pradesh, being the competent authority to remove Sri Paltasingi Appala Raju, S/o Late Lakshmanna, 57 years, Forest Beat Officer, O/o Forest Range Officer, Araku Valley, Visakhapatnam District from the service and after fully and carefully examining the entire material i.e. FIR Pre & Post trap proceedings, statements of witnesses, relevant records, explanation of Sri V.Venkateswara Naidu and Final report of DG, ACB etc., placed before them in respect of the said allegations and with regard to the facts and circumstances of the case, consider that Sri Paltasingi Appala Raju, S/o Late Lakshmanna, 57 years, Forest Beat Officer, O/o Forest Range Officer, Araku valley, Visakhapatnam District should be prosecuted in a court of law for the aforesaid offences.

7) Now, therefore, in exercise of the powers conferred by clause (b) of sub-section (1) of section 19 of the Prevention of Corruption Act,1988 (Central Act 49 of 1988) and sec.197 of Criminal Procedure Code, the Government of Andhra Pradesh hereby accord sanction for prosecution of Sri Paltasingi Appala Raju, S/o Late Lakshmanna, 57 years, Forest Beat Officer, O/o Forest Range Officer, Araku Valley, Visakhapatnam District for the aforesaid offences punishable under section 7 and sub-section (2) of section 13 read with clause (d) of sub-section (1) of section 13 of the Prevention of Corruption Act,1988 (Central Act 49 of 1988) read with 34 Indian Penal Code and for any other cognate offences punishable under any other provisions of law for the time being in force in respect of the aforesaid acts and for taking cognizance of the said offences by a court of competent jurisdiction.

(BY ORDER AND IN THE NAME OF THE GOVERNOR OF ANDHRA PRADESH)

G. ANANTHA RAMU
PRINCIPAL SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

To
The Director General,
Anti-Corruption Bureau,
A.P., Vijayawada.

Copy to:
Law (G) Department,
A.P., Secretariat.
S/f, S/c.